

Shelley McNamara 2021 Laureates Anne Lacaton and Jean-Philippe Vassal Ceremony Tribute

We were absolutely delighted when we heard that Lacaton Vassal received the 2021 Pritzker Prize.

Their voice has called out to us from the space of architecture for many years asking questions, loud and clear.

Telling us things like never demolish what you find, give double what you are asked for, do nothing if this is the best answer...and this was way before the climate change crisis or the pandemic crisis.

These were core values of theirs right from the start.

They use words such as tender, kind, generous, when speaking about a place or a program, or a community.

They have shown us how important it is to listen. They work patiently and tirelessly with communities and people so as to make an architecture that liberates and provides freedom and comfort for the human body, for the human psyche. They make spaces that are beautiful. Full of joy, full of light, full of fresh air, full of hope.

Their presence has shown us how to dream of a better world, how to confront the forces which eradicate and leave no space for architecture. They look at the world with a keen eye reminding us of Eluard when he says "there is another world and it is this one"

Lacaton Vassal get under the skin of architecture.

Deceptively-sounding simple ambitions, virtually impossible to achieve in the current litigious, bureaucratic, commercial world, are their daily bread.

They put their money where their heart is, spending carefully and skillfully, where it matters most to the user.

They exercise the incredible technical skill needed to navigate through the obstacles one by one, so as to get to what they want their buildings to be, instruments of freedom.

Their built work, their thinking, teaching, and dreaming has inspired and challenged the world of architecture for so many years and for all the above reasons and many many more we celebrate them as recipients of this wonderful, prestigious Pritzker Prize 2021.

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